

# Trump and the FBI: Four very quick questions and answers from SANFORD LEVINSON

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Sanford V. Levinson Mi 10 Mai 2017

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*US President Donald Trump, to the bewildered horror of many, has dismissed FBI director James Comey in the middle of an investigation about his aides' ties to Russia. [Some](#) even call this situation a constitutional crisis. We have shot Constitutional Law professor Sanford Levinson four very quick questions and received four equally short answers:*

*Is this a constitutional crisis?*

No. The constitutional crisis is having an ignorant narcissist like Donald Trump as President without the opportunity of dismissing him with a vote of no confidence. But the firing itself does not raise serious constitutional problems.

*Will this evolve into a constitutional crisis?*

It could be transformed into a constitutional crisis if he hesitates to nominate a successor or if the successor is unable to gain Senate confirmation. Furthermore, I am cautiously hopeful that some Republicans will develop sufficient backbone to join Democrats in subpoenaing Trump's tax returns. Should he fail to honor such a subpoena, that could provoke a constitutional crisis and impeachment.

*What could Congress do about it?*

Congress has the investigatory power, including subpoena authority, should it choose to use it.

*Do you expect it will?*

It's hard these days to have any stable "expectations". But it would not surprise me if a few Republicans developed some backbone, not least because Trump is threatening to generate an electoral disaster for the Republicans come 2018 and, even more certainly, 2020.

*Questions by Maximilian Steinbeis*

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